

Mia Costello
BBC Radio Solent
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10-3-04

Dear Mia,

You asked for comments about Radio Solent and the BBC in general. (Sorry it's taken me a while to respond!) I have listened to R. Solent for 20 years and only listen to national BBC radio for its morning service.

Firstly I really value 'America's Moderns' and find Tim the best presenter of it, we've had. It's a good mix of hymns (Sarky appreciated!) and I like his manner.

Secondly, 'Late Night Show'. I wouldn't be without it on any night of the week! Both Paul & Dave are essential listening & start the night in a relaxed way.

Thirdly, early morning progs:- Don't know much until 7.30-8.00, although the new Sat presenter tends to jar me awake with strident music soon after 5.00 AM. Please could the choice be more softly, softly?

Re Julian's part of early morning, I feel

of late that it is becoming more of a magazine programme, at the expense of local news. Does it really matter which supermarket has cheap offers? We all have our fixed patterns of shopping anyway. Taste tests mean nothing. The time would be better spent with more village news.

likewise weekly phone chats with families who are not doing anything special is again taking up news-time, however pleasant the folk are. The original one from the farm during BSE was both relevant & informative.

The local news events which Julia & the Team do cover are done well, so please lets have more of them.

Finally, 'Topsoil'. During the 20 years I've been here I've only missed four programmes, so I think you'll know I've been keen! But at the moment I feel cheated of my favourite programme. It isn't that I don't like Pipra, I do (& always have done on T.V.) It isn't that I find the features uninteresting either. What I miss intensely, & what if I may point out was a natural carousel, is

That how of callers questions on Sat, & callers written queries on Sunday.

At present a few, though I'm sure not so many, callers ring in throughout the morning. As the format is at present I would not send in a written request for help because I would have to be tied to the radio for 3 hours to see if it was answered. That isn't very practical.

It isn't the ^{gardening} content of the new programme I don't like but the format, and please, please ditch the music, it makes it so difficult when listening out of doors. Speech comes over at one volume but music (especially 60's stuff) suddenly blasts out & neighbours don't like it. Personally

I'd rather have 1/2 hour shorter for the prog, but no music, ~~but~~ ^{and} the last hour as it used to be.

I can't comment on mid day progs because I defect to TV or Classic Fm (sorry).

Concerning BBC T.V. One thing which irks me is the poor time-keeping especially

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BBC 2 which invariably runs 2 mins or so over. This makes it difficult when the next prog I want to view or listen to, starts promptly, or in the case of ITV 1 a minute early some evenings.

Another thing that upsets me with BBC TV ~~is~~ is the lack of taste of some of its adverts. The one where the characters peeled off their faces was grotesque. I ended up turning off the TV when that came on. The current man in the dog kennel is pretty fastidious too.

I appreciate BBC documentaries but a little less David Attenborough & more Simon King would be better. I wish that drama would be screened for better values. Is it so necessary to have bad language? It adds nothing to the plot - just shows the script writers are not able to convey feelings properly. Do we have to have adultery portrayed as a way of life that is

the norm? It's no wonder there is so much sexual experimentation among those under age. The same goes for violence.

What I do appreciate with BBC is their news service and their repetition of the really funny older sit coms, such as 'The Good Wife' and 'Yes Minister'. If only today's humour didn't depend upon bedroom romps. Good writers can be very funny without smut, and certainly used to be.

Well this has become Loney, Mia, but you did ask! Thank you for reading it!

One thing that worries me is the ending of analogue transmissions in the future. What happens to those of us who are in areas where reception is too poor to receive it?

Also may I mention that it is almost impossible to get ^(BBC) FM here as BBC signal is too weak. Thankfully AM is O.K

Yours sincerely,
Anna Coru (ANNA CORU)

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PS. May I make a suggestion for Paul Miller's programme. There are many of us who are not able to keep listening all the way through and I'm sure many who cannot begin to listen until later. So that each group could both hear the quiz and take part in the subsequent topic session, could these sections be alternated? Say one week or month with the quiz first as now + then the next with the topic first + quiz later on? Personally, I'd offer like to contribute to a topic but am nodding off so don't call in.